

Institution to Community
Continuity of Services
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Why Important?

- Institution substance abuse treatment effective (Leshner, 1997)
- Community treatment with offenders effective (N.I.D.A., 2001)
- Too little attention on institution – community continuity (Peters, 1993)
- Recent studies show impact of treatment continuity at community re-entry (Inciardi, 1997)

Criminal Justice/Societal Perspective

- Highest risk offenders
- Resources invested in institution
- Antisocial characteristics and continuity
- Absence of continuity = poor resource utilization

Client Perspective

- Leaving prison: intimidating experience
- Comfort in structured environments: institutionalization
- Difficulty with transfer of learning
- Summary: triggers for relapse high
- Therefore: plan for, rather than lament re-entry problems

The Models of Community Re-Entry

- outreach
- reach – in
- third party

Model Program Example

1. Service providers “reach – in” the institution
2. Joint institution – community release planning
3. Intensive community supervision
4. Continuity of Treatment
5. Careful management of incentives and sanctions